

NEWS BRIEFS

BLAZE loss

The BLAZE Team mourns the passing of Kenneth Lyle, 14th Civil Engineer fire inspector. Lyle was a BLAZE Team member since 1998.

Open house

An open house at the life skills support center is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today. Everyone is invited. For more information, call Ext. 2197.

Freedom Park clean-up

Volunteers are needed to help clean-up Freedom Park from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday. Lunch is provided, and volunteers can volunteer throughout the day. The park is only remulching.Call Ext. 2505.

FOD checks

The 14th Flying Training Wing has instituted a mandatory foreign object damage check policy for all military and civilian vehicles prior to entering the flight line including vehicles returning from runway supervisor unit access roads.

Where “FOD Check” signs appear, all drivers are required to stop their vehicles and remove FOD from tires and exterior surfaces. The FOD should not be left on the road. Call Ext. 2863.

Correction

Energy-saving presentations by base utilities and Johnson Controls are at 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., Mississippi Valley Gas at 10:30 a.m. and 1 a.m. Dec. 20 in the theater for all building managers and any others interested. Tennessee Valley Authority will brief in January or February. For more information, call Ext. 7403.

Mission Report

As of Wednesday

T-1A	T-37
Goal: 378.5 hrs.	Goal: 363
Flown: 354.0 hrs.	Flown: 405
T-38A	T-38C
Goal: 120	Goal: 82
Flown: 123	Flown: 94



Airman 1st Class Chawntain Young

Hoisting holiday tree

Gary Davis and David Lewis, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron, adjust the tension in the cables to keep the base's Christmas tree straight. The tree lighting ceremony is at 5 p.m. today at the Wing Ceremonial Plaza. Santa Claus is at the chapel annex following the ceremony for free pictures. Call Ext. 7958 or 2500.

Columbus AFB exceeds campaign goal

Airman Alexis Lloyd
Public affairs

Columbus AFB surpassed their Combined Federal Campaign goal of 100 percent to 103 percent Nov. 15.

The total amount collected was \$93,106.92 for the annual fund-raising drive conducted by federal employees in the workplace each fall.

Each year, federal employees and military people raise millions of dollars through the CFC to benefit thousands of non-profit charities.

“The Happy Fund and the youth center are both CFC charities that benefited this time,” said Capt. Kristin Shapleigh, CFC project officer.

The CFC kicked off its campaign Sept. 26.

“Thanks to all the commanders and key workers who made this campaign a success,” Shapleigh said.

The key workers were the points of contacts because they were the ones who ensured 100 percent contact with people on base, Shapleigh said.

The United Way heads up the campaign

for the local area. It is responsible for sending out the campaign materials and collecting the contribution forms.

“This year’s CFC has been successful and Columbus AFB is to be commended,” said Lori Kesler, executive director of United Way of Lowndes County. [United Way] extends our heartfelt thanks to the base for all its hard work and dedication in support of CFC. [United Way] couldn’t do it without you.”

(Editor’s note: Airman 1st Class Chawntain Young contributed to this story.)



Kenn Brown

One step up

Col. Steve Schmidt, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Frank Booth (far right), 14th FTW man power office, congratulate December promotees (from left to right, back to front): To staff sergeant, Teresa Granade, 14th Security Forces Squadron; to airman, Brian Marlett, 14th Communications Squadron; to master sergeant, James Bailey, 14th CS; to airman first class, William Roberts, 14th Comptroller Flight; to senior airman, Najah Alford, 14th FTW; and to airman first class, Efosa Osaghae-Morgan, 14th Operation Support Squadron.

Not pictured are:

To major:

Mark Baroni, 14th FTW; John Fair, 41st Flying Training Squadron; James Gallagher, 48th FTS; Scott Gundlach, 37th FTS; Helmut Heidemann, 48th FTS; Bruce Kite, 14th FTW; David Rademacher, 48th FTS; and Charles Smith, 41st FTS

To first lieutenant:

Julie Moore, 14th Operations Support Squadron

To chief master sergeant:

Ricky Bailey, 332nd Recruiting Squadron

To technical sergeant:

Rodney Fisk, 14th Medical Operations Squadron

To staff sergeant:

Brandon Holda, 14th OSS; and Michael Tate, 41st FTS

To senior airman:

Scotty Crowe, 14th SFS; Amber Martin, 41st FTS; Matthew Misqueuz, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron; and Anthony Nguyen, 14th CS

To airman first class:

Brandon Johnson, 14th CES

To airman:

Edwin Farlough, 14th CES



Notable Quote

“We have got a long way to go to secure the homeland, to defend freedom and to defeat this enemy. And it’s important for the American people to understand that.” — On war on terror

— George W. Bush, President of the United States



Bush signs NDAA

WASHINGTON — President George W. Bush signed the fiscal 2003 National Defense Authorization Act into law Dec. 2 at the Pentagon.

The NDAA authorizes the Department of Defense to spend \$375 billion to continue the transformation of the military to face future challenges and to fight the global war on terrorism.

More than one-fourth of that amount, \$94 billion, will go to support personnel programs and quality-of-life initiatives.

“It sets priorities for our Defense Department in a critical, critical period for our country,” Bush said.

According to the president, the NDAA rewards the service and sacrifice of the nation’s military members and their families with higher pay, improved facilities and better housing.

It also ensures servicemembers have the best equipment, the most advanced weapons, supports operations and maintenance, and continues investments in missile defense and new technologies to give America’s military every advantage on the battlefields of the future.

As part of this year’s overall defense budget, the Air Force was authorized \$28.3 billion for the procurement of aircraft, missiles and ammunition. It was also authorized \$33.7 billion in operation and maintenance funds for the active-duty force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard; \$389 million for environmental restoration; \$1.3 billion in military construction. Family housing construction for the Air Force was authorized \$684 million. (Courtesy of Air Force Print News.)

Commander releases video

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas — In preparation for the holiday season and the extended Christmas break, the commander of Air Education and Training Command released a four-minute video emphasizing mission accomplishment, safety awareness and personal risk management.

The video message from Gen. Don Cook is available for viewing using links on the AETC Public Affairs Web page at <http://www.aetc.randolph.af.mil/pa/aetcc> and the AETC Safety Web page at <https://www.aetc.af.mil/se2/safety/home.htm>.

“In order to most effectively transmit General Cook’s safety message, I request each member of your command have the opportunity to view this video,” said Col. Herb Foret Jr., AETC director of safety. “The venue and method of viewing the (commander’s) message is totally at the discretion of wing, group and squadron commanders. All assigned personnel, military and civilian, should see the video no later than departing for the holiday break.”

Colonel Foret added the video may also be used for local safety training courses or as required to reinforce the safety message as new members arrive through the winter rotation cycle. (Courtesy of AETC News.)

AFPC takes hard look at reenlistment bonuses

The Air Force Personnel Center Headquarters announced its semi-annual selective reenlistment bonus review.

The review will focus on manning levels as well as retention trends, training costs and career field managers’ input regarding the effects of on-going or future force structure changes.

“The review is not restricted to those Air Force Specialty Codes currently on the SRB list,” said Staff Sgt. Mi’chele Cetto, 14th Mission Support Squadron.

The results of this review will be released in January. “Although HQ/AFPC plans to announce these results in January, please be aware that this date may be delayed,” Cetto said. “This could affect your reenlistment plans.”

According to Air Force Instruction 36-2606, paragraph 2.16.1, airmen serving in SRB skills announced for reduction or termination must reenlist (if eligible) before the effective date of the termination or reduction.

“Members will not have the opportunity to change prior reenlistment dates to take advantage of this release,” said Master Sergeant Tonya Noble, 14th Mission Support Squadron. “Any person who has reenlisted prior to the release of the message is not eligible to have their reenlistment declared erroneous and reenlist at a later date.”

For more information, contact career enhancements at Ext. 2582 or 2580. *(Courtesy of the career enhancement office.)*



Tech. Sgt. Jim Moser
Gerry Green and Margaret Arnold, Happy Shop and Wrap volunteers, help wrap presents for those who might not have received any other gifts this holiday season.

Happy ‘Shop and Wrap’ brings Christmas cheer

Tech Sgt. Jim Moser
Public affairs

Columbus AFB volunteers armed with tape, scissors and wrapping paper swarmed the Columbus Club Wednesday to bring some Christmas cheer to those who might not have received any other gifts this holiday season.

More than 75 base volunteers hit the stores at 7 a.m. to purchase and wrap the gifts.

“I think the Happy Fund is a wonderful program,” said Staff Sgt. Arden Hunt, fund helper. “Christmas is the season of giving.

“I have been very blessed and helping

Happy wrap these gifts gives me a chance to bless someone else.”

The Happy Shop and Wrap is a 50-year tradition of providing Christmas gifts for needy children and fruit baskets to elderly shut-ins living in Columbus.

This year’s fund gave Christmas gifts to more than 400 children and 75 fruit baskets to elderly people who might have been forgotten during the holiday season.

Happy said he is very proud of the fact 100 percent of the donations given to the fund go directly to helping others.

“This event would not be possible without the team effort of Columbus AFB people and the local community,” said Lin Playford, Happy Fund volunteer director.

TRICARE travel tips

Airman 1st Class Chawntain Young
Public affairs

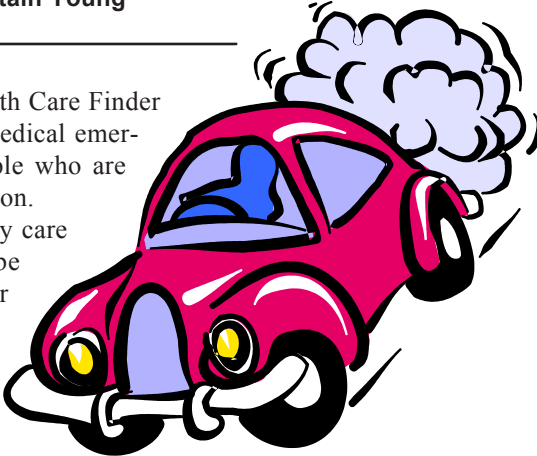
TRICARE and the Health Care Finder are prepared to arrange medical emergency assistance for people who are traveling this holiday season.

TRICARE has a primary care manager who can be reached at Ext. 2273 or (800) 982-4260 and the HCF has registered nurses who can be reached at (800) 333-4040 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The following reminders from TRICARE may help people prepare for and handle medical emergencies that may occur during holiday season travel.

- ❑ People should visit their PCM to take care of routine health needs, such as management of chronic health conditions or prescription refills before they leave.
- ❑ If people find themselves in a situation where they require urgent care, which are situations not life or limb threatening but serious enough to prompt treatment, they should:
 - ❑ Call their PCM to confirm the need for urgent care before receiving treatment.
 - Urgent care received while traveling won’t be approved for reimbursement or payment unless treatment is authorized in advance by their PCM.
 - ❑ Call the HCF only after attempting to contact their PCM and their PCM can’t be reached. The HCF can help arrange medical treatment, but people must still contact their PCM within 24 hours because only an approval from their PCM ensures the claim will be paid.
 - ❑ If people find themselves in a situation where they require emergency care, which is defined as an unexpected onset of a medical condition or worsened chronic condition, threatening life, limb, sight or excessive pain, they should:
 - ❑ Proceed to the nearest facility equipped to handle the situation, such as a hospital emergency room. Emergency care does not require preauthorization, but the person or someone acting on their behalf must call their PCM within 24 hours after treatment to ensure coverage.
 - ❑ Call the HCF only after they have attempted to contact their PCM and their PCM cannot be reached. However, people must still contact their PCM within 24 hours of the emergency room visit.

For more information, call Ext. 2273.



Tumbling Tots: Teaches tykes to test limits

Kiiva Williams
Public affairs

The Columbus AFB Youth Center offers the Tumbling Tots program where toddlers enjoy gymnastics while improving their self-esteem.

The class is open to children ages 18 months to 4 years and helps build children’s gross motor skills, flexibility and agility.

Classes are held for 3 to 4 year olds from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays and for ages 18 months to 2 years from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Thursdays.

A third session for parents who work during morning class times is at 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

Christy Hayes, class instructor, leads toddlers in preschool gymnastics and simple exercise movements such as jumping jacks, dancing and walking a balance beam.

“I feel it’s important to start physical activity at an early age,” said Hayes.

However, Tumbling Tots isn’t just concerned with toddlers’ physical development.

Children also learn to work and play together in a fun environment.

“Our mission is to help develop the kids mentally, physically [and build] their character, confidence and personality,” said Elisa Quintero, youth center assistant.

Parents are encouraged to attend the classes where they can provide support for their toddlers and bond with their children.

“I love watching [my daughter’s] confidence grow and the social skills she’s developing,” said Ronda Harbison, mother of Emma, a Tumbling Tot. “When we first started classes, she couldn’t walk across the balance beam by herself. Now she still needs a little help but she has improved so much.”

Hayes started the program at Columbus AFB in November after she realized that there were no activities for children under the age of four.

“Parents don’t want to have their kids sitting around the house all day,” Hayes said.

With her daughters, 2-year-old Lydia and 14-month-old Abbey, in tow, Hayes set out to start a program specifically with the younger crowd in mind.

She said she believes this class could help put children on a path toward good health and physical activity.

The cost of enrollment is \$40 per month and \$20 for each additional child. For more information, call Hayes at Ext. 5106.

Some of the other programs the youth center offers are: The Torch abd Keystone clubs, Kindermusik, karate, ballet and piano and voice music lessons. For more information about the programs or information on volunteer opportunities, call Ext. 2504.



2nd Lt. Joseph Coslett
Grace Isakson, 2 years old, hangs from a bar during Tumbling Tots at the youth center.

Beanie Baby silent auction raises money for Happy Fund

Kiiva Williams
Public affairs

A Beanie Baby silent auction is from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday in the Happy Lounge at the Columbus Club.

All proceeds from the auction will benefit the Happy Christmas Fund, which raises money to purchase clothing items and school supplies for less fortunate children and buy fruit baskets for the elderly during the holidays.

Many Beanie Babies are available for auction and potential buyers write down their offers on a bid sheet.

At 1 p.m., the person with the highest bid on a particular Baby walks away with a collector’s item.

“It’s a win-win situation — [the fund] receives the donations and the buyer gets a great gift,” said Lin Playford, one of the event’s organizers.

The fund, named for George “Happy” Irby, started with a working man saving his hard earned tips in a jar and donating

the collected money to underprivileged children during Christmas.

“Fifty years later, it has grown to a year-round fund raising event,” said Master Sgt. Paul McClain of the 14th Mission Support Group, another auction organizer.

The Happy Fund hosts different events such as a corporate sponsored summer golf tournament to raise money and awareness for its cause. A goal is set for \$9,000 each year. This year’s Beanie Baby Silent Auction is just one of the

fund raisers scheduled for the upcoming holiday season.

“Our goal is to make money for Happy and his kids,” McClain said.

Although the Happy Fund is accepting all donations, organizers hope that people will participate in the auction.

“A person doesn’t really have to be a collector,” Playford said. “They just have to be someone who is interested in helping the Happy Fund.”

The auction is open to all. To volunteer, call Playford at 434-8918.

Fire department provides tips to keep holidays fire-free

The Christmas holiday season is upon us. It’s a time of joy, but there’s also an element of danger.

The Columbus AFB fire department will come and inspect homes for fire hazards. Call the department and make an appointment.

Here are some tips to help make the holidays at home hazard-free:

- ❑ Ensure exits aren’t obstructed and don’t hang any decorations from smoke detectors, ceiling fans and light fixtures.

- ❑ Don’t run wiring for decorative lights through doorways, under carpeting or through holes in walls. It’s recommended that a power strip with an internal circuit breaker be used to connect lights to the power outlet.
- ❑ Be sure to test smoke detectors to ensure proper operation.
- ❑ Clean your stove and oven prior to the holiday. Often the extra load on these appliances causes a fire due to the high use and extra grease build-up. If an oven fire can’t be

extinguished, close the door and call 911. In most cases, the smoke will cause the fire to burn out.

- ❑ Keep kitchen clutter away from the stove and oven.
- ❑ Be extra careful with matches and candles. Use the strike zone — imaginary line five feet from the floor — for children around these items.
- ❑ Don’t use lit candles or open flames on or near trees or other flammable decorations.
- ❑ Check the home’s ABC fire extinguish-


er ensure it’s in good operating condition. This should be done monthly. Ensure that all family members know the location and how to use it. Contact housing maintenance at Ext. 7370 if it needs replacing; these extinguishers are not refillable.

- ❑ Always call 911 for all fire and emergency situations. Report all fires regardless of size or location.

For more information, call the fire prevention office at Ext. 2269 or 2270. *(Courtesy of the fire department.)*

Supervisors — What is your role in career counseling?

Master Sgt. Victor Tennant
14th Flying Training Wing



Quick — what is your role as a supervisor in career counseling? Do you have to be a supervisor to provide career counseling? What does career counseling mean to you? How does career counseling tie into the retention problems the Air Force faces today?

If you can answer every question above, you have mastered one of the main roles of being a supervisor and leader. If you’re one of the many who question why you have to know career counseling, then you should brush up on this important duty.

After all, as a front-line supervisor and leader you must

promote a “career mindset” as one of your NCO responsibilities.

Several years ago, the Air Force did away with base career advisors and transferred those responsibilities to front-line supervisors, first sergeants and commanders. Today, due to the increased operations tempo throughout the Air Force and force reductions during the ‘90s, career advisors are back. The Air Force has realized supervisors, first sergeants and commanders don’t have enough time and/or the ability to provide definitive answers about career decisions to help guide our airmen. Providing that type of advice requires specialized knowledge and training.

When there weren’t any career advisors, many airmen had to make the critical decision of “Should I stay or should I go?” without proper guidance and necessary information. It became obvious there was an urgent need to fill this void, so the Air Force responded by creating career

assistance advisor positions at each installation.

As the career assistance advisor for Columbus AFB, it’s my responsibility to help supervisors, first sergeants and commanders get out the right information on the benefits of making the Air Force a career. The ways I do this are by briefing airman leadership school classes, conducting informed decision briefings, speaking to groups at enlisted professional development courses, first term airmen center classes and commander’s calls. This is my role — but what about yours as a supervisor/leader?

According to the most recent Air Force exit survey, three of the top five reasons members are leaving the Air Force are directly related to our supervisors/leaders. The reasons are “lack of recognition of one’s efforts, lack of leadership at the unit level and lack of job satisfaction.” These three cost

See CAREER, Page 6

Plan, take holiday trips carefully

Gen. Don Cook
AETC Commander

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — As we approach the holiday season, most of us are making plans to spend time with friends and families and to take advantage of some much-deserved downtime.

On the other hand, I recognize right up front that many of our folks will be away from home and loved ones in defense of our freedoms and in support of our national interests as our nation remains engaged in the war against terrorism. To you, I express the heartfelt appreciation of your country, your Air Force and your command. You are and will be remembered during this holiday season as we look forward to your safe return.

To those who are traveling, my message is simple ... be careful. Driving during poor winter weather on crowded roadways may be the most dangerous thing you do all year. Specifically, the Air Force suffered the loss of 11 of our own during last year’s holiday season. In our own AETC, a young airman basic died four days before Christmas while driving

home ... a terrible tragedy. Commanders and supervisors at every level have developed and implemented safety nets in the form of procedures to help ensure our folks are rested and well prepared for a safe journey home. The tools of sound risk management can help that process. Ultimately though, it’s up to the individual to follow the rules, to obey the posted speed limits, and to drive within their capabilities and in consideration of road conditions.

Since 40 percent of last year’s 72 total Air Force and command vehicle fatalities involved alcohol, I remind each of you to obey the law and don’t drink and drive. Lastly, drive defensively and wear your seat belts. I expect commanders and supervisors to be involved in reviewing the travel plans and off-duty high risk activities of all assigned personnel, especially those between the ages of 18 and 25, since that group represented 70 percent of our Air Force off-duty fatalities last year.

Your country, your command and your unit need you back at work fit, healthy and ready for the challenges we are sure to face in 2003. I wish you and your family a happy and safe holiday season.

STRAIGHT TALK LINE

The Straight Talk Line is your direct line to the commander for comments and suggestions on how to make Columbus AFB better. Although the Straight Talk Line is always available, the best way to resolve problems is through the chain of command.

The Straight Talk Line phone number is 434-7058. Callers should leave their full name and phone number to receive an answer. All names are kept confidential. Messages are answered in the Silver Wings without names. Written questions may also be brought to the public affairs office in the wing headquarters building, Bldg. 724. People can also access the Strait Talk program through the Blazeweb and the main website at www.columbus.af.mil. Questions and answers will be edited for brevity.



SILVER WINGS

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 14th Flying Training Wing public affairs office of Columbus AFB, Miss. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless stated.

All advertising should be submitted to the Commercial Dispatch, advertising department, Columbus, Miss., phone 328-2427. All editorial copy should be submitted to the public affairs office, Bldg. 724, Columbus AFB, Miss., phone

434-7069, or e-mailed to silverwings@columbus.af.mil by 2 p.m. Friday. The Silver Wings staff reserves the right to edit or rewrite all copy submitted when necessary.

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Civilian Personnel.....434-2635

Clinic:

Family Practice.....434-2172

Appointment Desk.....434-2273

After Hours Care.....434-2273

Columbus Club..... 434-2489

Commissary.....434-7106

Finance.....434-2706

Housing Maintenance.....434-7270

Inspector General..... 434-2927

Legal Office.....434-7030

Military Equal Opportunity.....434-2591

Security Forces.....434-7129

Shoppette..... 434-6026

CAREER (Continued from Page 5)

areas cost the Air Force years of experience and thousands of dollars in training every time an airman walks out the door and into the civilian workforce. As supervisors/leaders, we must address these issues head on. Not surprisingly, these three responses are also mentioned numerous times in civilian job satisfaction questionnaires. Apparently, the grass isn’t always greener on the other side.

What kept you in the Air Force? Was it a mentor? Was it personal/professional pride, or was it patriotism? Whatever the reason, it was positive or you wouldn’t be here today reading this article. We are part of the most powerful Air Force in the world — an organization that stands second to none in several areas including tax-free allowances, free health care, family support programs, educational benefits, promotion opportunities and the only retirement program in America where you don’t pay a penny to collect a retirement check after 20 years for the rest of your life.

Do you expose your airmen to these and other benefits the military provides, or do you leave them to find out for themselves? It’s time we, as supervisors/leaders stand up and enthusiastically talk to our young troops about all the positive reasons (both personal and professional) why we made the military a career. Your comments, thoughts and guidance on what led you to stay in the Air Force will not only affect the individual you’re counseling, but could ultimately affect your entire workcenter.

Career counseling should be a daily, weekly or monthly activity. As a minimum, career counseling should happen twice a year during mandatory feedback sessions. Air Force Instruction 36-2618, The Enlisted

Force Structure, General NCO Responsibilities, mandates you provide an “Air Force Benefits Fact Sheet” and discuss this with the individual. You can find this sheet at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil.com under “Enlisted Benefits.”


Learn everything you can about our benefits and entitlements, and share this information during counseling sessions. Remember, you’ve been in the Air Force for several years and know about many of the benefits. Many junior personnel aren’t aware of some of the military’s benefits.

This is where you come in. One of the primary responsibilities of every NCO is to consider the professional development of your subordinates. This is why your role as a supervisor/leader is so critical in successful career counseling.

Admittedly, the Air Force isn’t for everyone. I’ll be the first to admit that military life includes much stress on the person and their family. But the closeness of the military family is one of those intangibles to think about when you consider your future in the United States Air Force.

We owe it to our junior personnel to help them make an informed decision based on facts and the intangibles. If they still choose to separate, thank them for doing their country a great service and wish them luck in their future.

If an individual chooses to reenlist, don’t take it for granted. Take time to thank them too. They (along with their family) have just made one of the most important decisions of their life, and hopefully you played a small role in this commitment by providing them with good career counseling.



We're all ears.

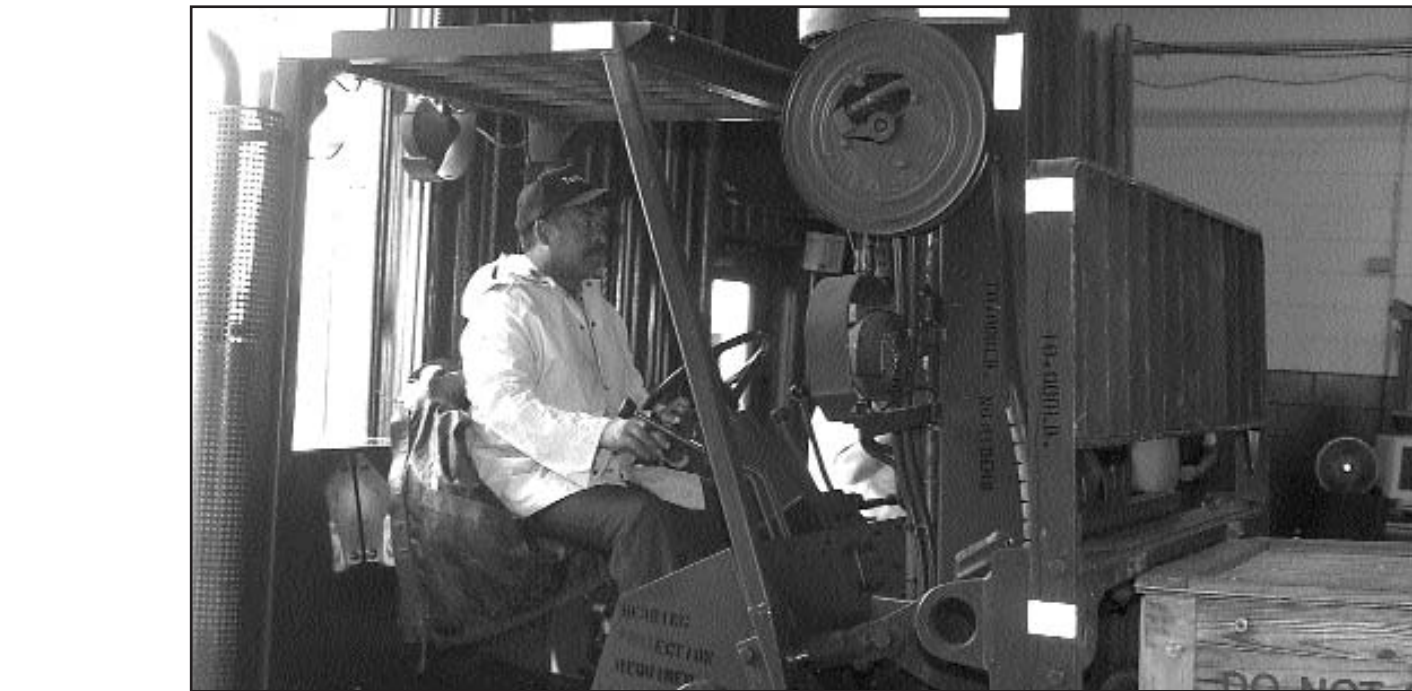


Here's your chance to tell us what you think about Air Force Services. Watch your mailbox for the 2003 Customer Feedback Survey. Complete and return it in the envelope provided. Your input makes a difference ...because we're listening!

Transportation — Keeping Columbus AFB moving



Photos by 2nd Lt. Joseph Coslett
Jerry Marshall, vehicle operator, opens the door to a 16-pack bus to pick up student pilots on the flightline.



Willie Stokes, vehicle operator, uses a forklift to lift a T-38 engine in the supply shop.

2nd Lt. Joseph Coslett
Public affairs

Recently, during a Columbus AFB exercise, airmen lined up to deploy — they threw their gear on to a pallet, and as the green mountains formed, fork lifts rushed in to carry them away.

The troops’ eyes widened as the last briefing was completed. Trudging down the stairs and exiting the Walker Center they’re met by a smiling face as they loaded on to a bus bound for war.

During the exercise vehicle operations carried more than 200 passengers and five short tons of supplies and ammunition.

“I left the Air Force 10 years ago to do the same thing I do now,” said Jerry Marshall, vehicle operator. “It helps [transportation] stay involved in the mission.”

Transportation processes more than 235 requests for vehicles, transports about 860 passengers and more than 120,000 pounds of cargo every month. To accomplish these numbers, the operators are qualified to drive every vehicle in the Columbus AFB inventory.

“On any given moment, we can be doing janitorial service on vehicles, driving a tractor-trailer or fork-lifting supplies,” Marshall said.

The operators’ versatility enables them to accomplish the many tasks set before them. They transport more than 13,000 crews a month from the 37th, 41st and 50th Flying Training Squadrons to the flight line and back again.

“We [transportation] are the link that gets them to the jets and back with all the equipment they have to carry,” said Denny Strickland, vehicle operator.

The folks at vehicle ops plays an important role during pilot graduation, Strickland said.

One bus drives distinguished visitors for the graduation to and from their destinations and two others transport the families of the graduating pilots to the base theatre. Following the graduation ceremony, the buses deliver the families to the flight line to see static displays or the Remote Supervisory Unit. They also transport families to aircraft simulator rides. After the completion of the events, the families are returned to their privately-owned vehicles.

Finally, at the end of the day, “We make sure the buses are cleaned and check out, we turn our keys, punch our time cards and go home,” Strickland said.

Marshall wraps up transportation in one sentence, “We provide transportation from an airman basic to a four-star general.”

AT THE CHAPEL

Chapel holiday schedule

Catholic

Sunday activities:

9:15 a.m. — Mass
10:30 a.m. — CCD
5 p.m. — Confessions
5:30 p.m. — Mass

Wednesday

11:30 a.m. — Mass

Christmas Eve Mass — 11 p.m. Dec. 24
Christmas Mass — 9:15 a.m. Dec. 25

Protestant

Sunday activities:

9 a.m. — Sunday school
10:45 a.m. — Traditional worship
1 p.m. — Contemporary worship
Wednesdays
5:30 p.m. — Choir rehearsal

Candle light service — 5 p.m. Dec. 24

Jewish

Nov. 30 to Saturday — Hannukah:
Natalie Bledstein, lay leader; call 434-6566.

For Islamic, Orthodox or other services, call the chapel at Ext. 2500.

AT THE MOVIES

All movies are shown at 7 p.m., unless otherwise noted, at the base theater.

Today

“Red Dragon” (R, violence, grisly images, some nudity and sexuality, 125 min.)

Starring Anthony Hopkins.

Saturday

“Brown Sugar” (PG-13, sexual content and language, 108 min.)

Starring Taye Diggs.

CHANNEL 64

BLAZE 64 offers announcements for people living in base housing or the dormitories.

Call 2nd Lt. Joseph Coslett for more information at Ext. 7065.

Weekdays
9 a.m., noon and 2 p.m.
Air Force Television News

Monday through Dec. 13
9:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.
College Level Examination Program:
Humanities

FAMILY SUPPORT



(Editor’s note: All activities are offered at the family support center unless otherwise specified. For more information, call Ext. 2790.)

Single parent luncheons: The single parents luncheon is at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday at the Columbus Club Happy Lounge. For more information, call Lee Chouinard.

Hearts Apart social: The Hearts Apart Holiday social is at 6 p.m. Dec. 17 at the family support center.

This social is for people who’s spouse is deployed, remote or on an extended temporary duty assignment.

Respite care program: The Air Force Aid Society offers grants for active duty Air Force personnel who have 24-hour care responsibilities for ill or disabled.

Remote/deployed briefing: Military people who are going remote or being deployed must attend a mandatory briefing offered at 9 a.m. every Thursday. Call Tech. Sgt. Jamey Coleman.

Sponsor training: The mandatory sponsor training can be done in monthly training or on the web. For more information on the dates or how to access the information online, contact the family support center.

Videophones: Videophones are available for family members of deployed, temporary duty or remote servicemembers at the family support center.

Volunteer opportunities: A bulletin board is now located in the family support center lists volunteer opportunities in the local community. For more information, contact the family support center.

Happy Landings: Information on the Columbus community is available to newcomers from 8 to 10 a.m. Wednesdays in the lodging facility lobby.

Loan locker: Families who are changing stations in or out are welcome to use the loan locker for household items. The locker is at outdoor recreation. Call Ext. 2505.



Tech. Sgt. Jim Moser

Parade preparations

Breanna Olson, volunteer, and Elisa Quintero, youth center specialist, decorate the center’s float for the Columbus’s Christmas Parade Monday. The youth center, the 41st Training Squadron’s Arnold Flight and the wing commander participated in the parade downtown.

Resume help: People looking for assistance in fine-tuning their resume can call the center for an appointment.

Media available: Over 75 videos on self-improvement and 45 videos and books on parenting are available at the center for check out.

BASE NOTES



Daedalian meetings: The Flight 74, Possum Town Flight, Order of Daedelians, meeting is Dec. 12. The reception is at 6 p.m. and dinner is at 7 p.m. at the Columbus Club.

All meetings are uniform of the day. All meetings are at the same time and place.

The coming up dates are Jan. 23, March 27, April 24 and May 15. A spouse Valentine dinner is Feb. 20, bring a spouse and wear a coat and tie for this event. For more information or to make reservations, call Ext. 3011 or email rick.johnson@columbus.af.mil.

Holiday cookie drive: The annual base holiday cookie drive is Dec. 16. The

officer’s spouses’ club needs people to donate over 500 dozen cookies, brownies, fudge and other sweets to be packaged and delivered to Columbus AFB’s single and unaccompanied people.

Cookies should be packaged in formed, disposable containers and dropped off at the community center between 6:30 to 9 a.m.

Volunteers are also needed to help package and deliver cookies Dec. 16. For more information, call Marcia Parsons at 434-6633 or Carole Funke at 434-5123.

Tree recycling: The Columbus AFB Christmas tree recycling collection dates are Dec. 26 and 30, Jan. 2, 6 and 9. Remove any decorations from the tree, place curbside on a scheduled collection day by 9 a.m.

All Christmas trees will be transported to the City of Columbus Drop Off Recycling Center, and this mulch is given away to area residents free for personal landscaping.

For more information or for special pick up before Dec. 26, call Ext. 7406.

South gate: The south gate operating hours are from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays. For more information, call Ext. 7128.

Time honored tradition carried on at Columbus AFB



Senior Airmen Travares Dozier, Holly Ewings and Airman 1st Class Jennifer Rossin, honor guard, present arms.

Airman Alexis Lloyd
Public affairs

He slowly brings up his hand as if in slow motion to salute the hero in the blue casket while family and friends dressed in black mourn their loss — another hero has passed from this world to the next.

Columbus AFB Honor Guard Team members and the East Mississippi Community College mortuary class gathered outside the community center Monday for a simulated funeral.

The EMCC class played the role of the hero's family and friends.

The class wanted to learn how military funerals honor those who have served.

"The Air Force has always been of the highest professionalism," said Don Webb, EMCC program director. "They are really second to none."

The casket draped with the American flag is carried from the hearse to the gravesite.

At the site, the honor guard folds the flag. The flag is handed off to the officer or NCO in charge, and then the

bearers are dismissed. After passing the flag, an Air Force chaplain, or a chaplain of the family's choosing, leads the prayer.

At the conclusion of the prayer, the 21-gun salute is performed. The three rounds of seven volleys symbolize the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost - this tradition started during the Civil War and continues today.

The playing of Taps concludes the ceremony, and the flag is presented to the spouse or family member.

"[The simulated funeral] was a great way to support the community and to show supervisors what their troops are doing," said Staff. Sgt. Rhonda Knipmeyer, 14th Services Division.

There are 32 members on the honor guard, but it still needs people.

"We are always and forever accepting new team members," Knipmeyer said.

"I feel it is an important job, and I am happy to uphold the time-honored tradition," said Airman Amber Ashy, honor guard member.

For more information about the honor guard, call Ext. 2311.



Airman 1st Class Adam Bethea, honor guard, matches the corners of the flag during the simulated funeral.



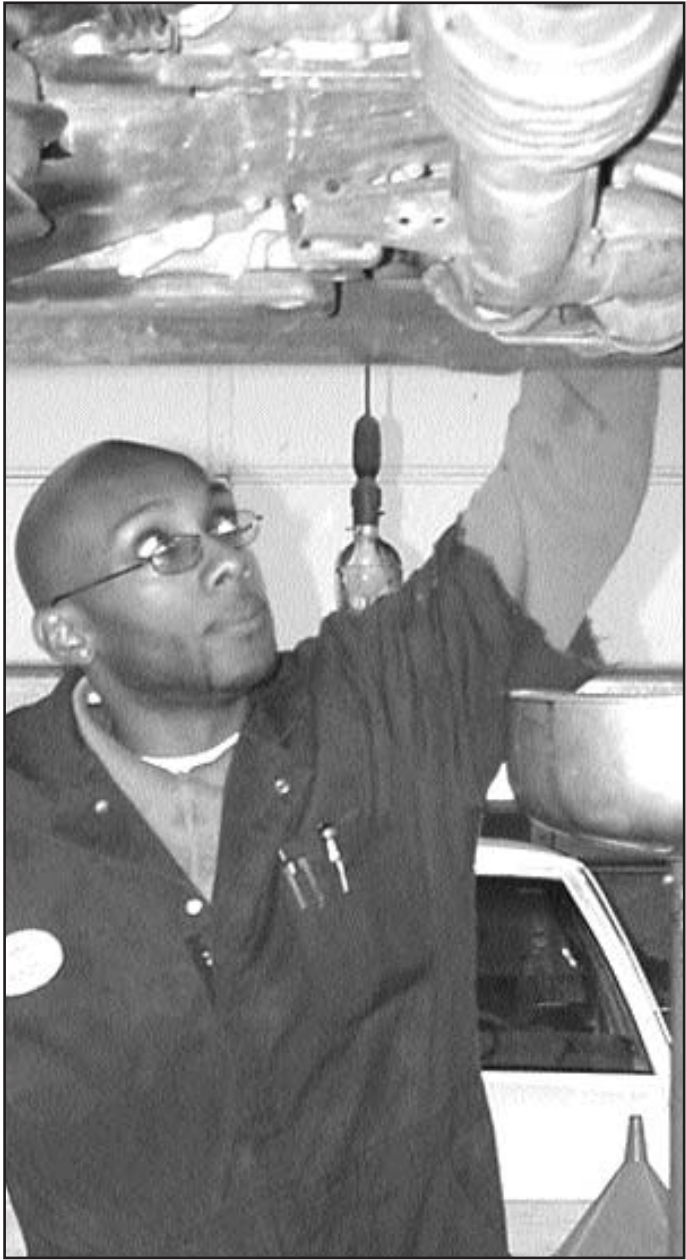
Airman Jacob Rewerts, bugler, plays Taps during the simulated funeral Monday.

Tech. Sgt. Jim Moser



Second Lt. Ryan Andrews, honor guard officer in charge, waits patiently while the bearers fold the flag to be passed on to the hero's family.

Tech. Sgt. Jim Moser



Pam Wickham

Tis’ oil changing season

Michael Coats, auto shop technician, changes the oil in a customer’s vehicle. The auto skills center provides this service for \$17.95, which includes oil and filter and a complimentary road check. Call Ext. 7842 for an appointment.

Columbus Club Lunch Buffet

Served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Cost: \$7.95

Members receive a \$2 discount

Price includes vegetable of the day, salad and tea

Today	Monday	Tuesday
Fried catfish	Fried chicken	Cube steak
Chicken fried steak	Baked ham	Beef stir fry
Cherry cobbler	Peach cobbler	Banana pudding

Wednesday	Thursday
Pulled pork	Chicken pot pie
Ribs	Lasagna
Apple cobbler	Apple crispitos

Services: Offers choices

◆ **All-ranks bingo:** The club offers all-ranks bingo at 6 p.m. Fridays in the community center ballroom. People play five \$75 games, one \$100 game and a \$1,000 progressive jackpot game. Consolation prize is \$100 if the jackpot doesn’t go in 52 numbers or less.

Admission fee for a nonmember is \$5. Call Ext. 2489.

◆ **Shopping trip:** The information, ticket and travel office offers a trip to Birmingham, Ala., Saturday.

Tour includes visits to the Water Mark Place Outlet Mall and the River Chase Galleria Mall. Cost is \$15 per person. Call Ext. 7858.

◆ **Sunday brunch:** The Columbus Club offers a brunch from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 8. Cost is \$12.95 per person. Members receive a \$2 discount. Call Ext. 2489.

◆ **Preschool story time:** The library offers preschool story time at 10 a.m. Tuesdays in December. This 30-minute program is open to ages 3 to 5. Call Ext. 2934.

◆ **Basket weaving classes:** The skills development center offers three different basket classes. The poinsettia basket class is Saturday. Cost is \$39. Make a compact disc basket Tuesday and Thursday.

Cost is \$39. The all-purpose deep harvest market basket class is Dec. 14 and Dec. 21. Cost is \$33. Price includes all supplies. Call Ext. 7836.

◆ **4-H Club:** The Youth Center is organizing a 4-H club on base. Applications are available at the center and must be turned in by Wednesday.

Program is free and open to ages 6 through 18. The first meeting is at 6 p.m. Dec. 12. Call Ext. 2504.

◆ **Holiday cookie baking contest:** The base library offers this contest Thursday. Deadline to turn in entry is 1 p.m. One entry per person. Winner receives a space in Anthony’s cooking class. Entries must be cooking class. Entries must be cookies, not candy. Call Ext. 2934.

◆ **Enlisted lounge open Thursdays:** The enlisted lounge is open from 4:30 to 10 p.m. Thursdays. Stop in to watch football.

◆ **Parents night out:** The child development center and youth center offer this program from 4 to 10 p.m. Dec. 14. Cost is \$2.50 an hour per child.

The child development center requires a nonrefundable \$5 deposit when making a reservation. Call Ext. 2479 or 2504.

◆ **Breakfast/pictures with Santa:** The youth center invites all parents and children to have breakfast with Santa from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Dec. 14. Cost is \$2 for breakfast and \$3 for each picture.

Pet pictures with Santa are from 10 to 11 a.m. Cost is \$3 per picture. Call Ext. 2504.

◆ **Piano recital:** The youth center’s piano students present their first piano recital at 2:30 p.m. Dec. 14 at the youth center. Call Ext. 2504.

◆ **Holiday dances:** The youth center’s preteen holiday dance is from 7 to 9 p.m. Dec. 20. Cost is \$1 for members and \$3 for non-members.

The teen dance is from 8 to 11 p.m. Dec. 21. Cost is \$2 for members and \$4 for nonmembers. Call Ext. 2504.

◆ **Win a vacation:** During open bowling at the bowling center, bowl three games and receive an entry into the drawing for an Armed Forces Vacation Club package — a \$249 value. Attach your bowling receipt to the entry to qualify.

Drawing at midnight at the bowling center’s new year’s eve party. Call Ext. 2426.

◆ **Casino trip:** The information, ticket and travel office offers a trip Dec. 20 to the Silver Star Casino. Cost is \$15 and includes transportation and \$15 in coins. Call Ext. 7858.

◆ **Crafts classes:** The skills development center offers youth classes to make Mom or Dad a gift.

The adult classes including making an angel ornament, a Santa puzzle ornament and a

clay pot soldier. A display of the December’s projects is available in the center. Call Ext. 7858.

◆ **Holiday camp:** The youth center’s holiday camp starts Dec. 23. The program is open to children, ages 5 to 12.

Space is limited, so register early. Fees based on family annual income. Call Ext. 2504.

◆ **Youth center New Year’s Eve party:** The youth center features a disc jockey, food and party favors for bringing in the new year from 7 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Dec. 31.

Cost is \$5 for members and \$8 for nonmembers.

Call Ext. 2504.

◆ **New Year’s Eve party:** The bowling center offers a new year’s eve party from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Dec. 31.

Cost is \$25 per person and includes a no-tap cosmic bowling tournament with prizes, party favors, heavy hors d’oeuvres, champagne at midnight and breakfast.

Receive five free entries into the drawing for an Armed Forces Vacation package with a purchase of a ticket.

Call Ext. 2426.

◆ **Smoky Mountain ski trip:** The information, ticket and travel office offers a trip to Gatlinburg, Tenn., Jan. 18 to 19. Cost is \$195 and includes transportation, lodging for two nights (double occupancy), lift tickets and rentals.

Cost is \$170 without rentals and \$125 for nonskiers.

Skiing is from 5 to 10 p.m. Jan. 18 and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 19. A deposit of \$50 is required when registering for the trip. Deadline to register is Jan. 10. Call Ext. 7858.

◆ **Teen of the month:** The youth center would like to recognize teens, ages 13 to 18. Teens who would like to be considered may pick up an application at the center.

The application addresses community service, school reports, a short essay and home and family lifestyle.

Winners are announced mid-month of each month. Call Ext. 2504.

Stepping stone class teaches basics of umpiring

Learn mechanics, timing, rules of fast, slow pitch softball

Airman Alexis Lloyd
Public affairs

When watching a softball game, have you ever told yourself, “I could do a better job umping that game?”

Here’s your chance.

Instruction is available beginning mid-January. The classes are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to noon.

“No certificates are available,” said Frank Solorio, class teacher and certified umpire. “This same instruction will be put to good use in the direction of attending a sanctioned course.”

The class teaches the basic concepts of how to officiate fast and slow pitch softball: rules knowledge, mechanics, timing, insight and punctuality.

Tests, transparencies, videos and individual field mechanics are part of the course curriculum.

Being an umpire has its advantages. “It’s rewarding, challenging and it keeps you in the game,” said Kendrick Hollings, umpire.

“One must understand, before you can run, you must

walk and that is what these classes are offering,” Solorio said.

“I am just looking for students to share my knowledge with,” Solorio said.

The softball season for Columbus AFB begins in May.

For more information on the class dates or sanctioned courses available, call Solorio at Ext. 7500.



SHORTS

Gockey tournament

A half golf, half hockey for preteens starts at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 9 at the youth center. Preteens may sign up prior to the start of the tournament. No awards will be given. Call Ext. 2504.

Bowling tournament

The bowling youth tournament is from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Dec. 14 at the bowling center. Base youth may register at the bowling center, youth center or during the Saturday youth leagues. Entry is \$5 per person. Top three scratch scores in four age groups will be forwarded to the Air Education and Training Command. For more information, call Ext. 2323.

Backwards scramble

The backwards scramble tournament for all levels of golfers begins at 10 a.m. Dec. 14. Play the entire course backwards. Entry is \$15 for members and \$15

plus greens fees for nonmembers. Computer selects the teams. Call Ext. 7932.

Indoor soccer

Deadline for registering for indoor soccer is Dec. 15 at the youth center. The program is open to ages 3 to 7. Cost is \$25 for members and \$35 for nonmembers. Volunteer coaches are needed to support this program. Season’s scheduled to begin in January. Players must have current physical on file or obtain one before the start of the program. Call Ext. 2504.

Bowling turkey shoot

Open turkey shoot is from Dec. 15 to 21. Entry is \$6.50. During open bowling, register to compete. Bowl three games in the nine-pin no-tap format. Top scores win. Nine-pin no tap means that if a bowler knocks down nine pins with their first ball, it counts as a strike. There is a

men’s and women’s division. One turkey given away for every four entries. Call Ext. 2426

Jingle bell fun run/walk

A 5 mile run or 1.5-mile walk begins at 11 a.m. Dec. 18 at the fitness and sports center. Be sure to wear jingle bells. If you don’t have any, the center will provide them. Door prizes available. Call Ext. 2772.

No-tap bowling

All levels of bowlers are invited to enter this monthly no-tap tournament Dec. 20. Sign up by 6:45 p.m., and the games begin at 7 p.m. Entry is \$7.50.

Players must get a strike with a red-head pin to spin the wheel to win a prize.

Every game, randomly selected individuals are challenged to knock down a certain number of bowling pins. Call Ext. 2426.

new or serviceable toys for toddlers to teenagers, call 241-5665 from noon to 10 p.m.

◆ **Holiday homes:** Tour pre-Civil War mansions brightly decorated for the holiday season. Temple Heights, Waverley Plantation Mansion and Amzi Love will be open for tours from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. every Saturday during December.

Tour Shadowlawn, Waverley Plantation Mansion and Rosedale from 1 to 4 p.m. every Sunday during December. Contact the Columbus Historic Foundation at 329-3533 for ticket information.

◆ **Christmas tree sale:** The Boy Scouts Troop 3 sells Christmas trees as a fund raiser in the Kroger parking lot on Highway 45 from 4 to 9 p.m. Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturdays and from 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays. The scouts are selling the trees until supplies are gone. For more information, call 328-6020.

AROUND TOWN

◆ **Free holiday music:** Mississippi University for Women’s Choral annual holiday concert is at 7:45 p.m. today in historic Poindexter Hall on the MUW campus.

The event is free, and the public is welcome. For more information, call 329-7106.

◆ **Arts and crafts show:** Lake Lowndes State Parks hosts its 20th Annual Indoor Arts and Crafts Show from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday in the Lake Lowndes Multi Sports Center Gymnasium.

For more information, call 328-2110.

◆ **Yard and bake sale:** The Columbus-Lowndes Humane Society a yard sale from 7 to 11 a.m. at 13 Airline Road and a bake sale from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Leigh Mall Saturday.

All the proceeds benefit the homeless animals at the society.

For more information, call 327-3107.

◆ **Singing Christmas Tree:** An orchestra and 100 singing voices form a Singing Christmas Tree at 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the First United Methodist Church on Main Street.

Admission is free, but tickets are needed to guarantee seating. For more information, call 328-5252.

◆ **Boat parade:** A parade of lighted boats is at 5:30 p.m. Saturday and will cruise down the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, with viewing from the Columbus Marina on Wilkins-Wise Road.

Admission is free. For more information, call 327-8450.

◆ **Motorcycle run:** The Riders Association has its annual toy run for Mark Mitchell Shelter children at 1 p.m. Dec. 14. The motorcycle parade starts at the Little Kitchen on Highway 373.

For arrangement of donations or to arrange a pickup of